6

THE GUIDING LIGHT

KNOWLEDGE IN ISLAM

A Collection of Quranic Verses and Sayings from the 14 Masumin

SUGGESTED AGES 8+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS

GUIDED BY MOULANA NABI R. MIR (ABIDI)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj).
May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Acknowledgments

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.
Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah (swt), but we would like to sincerely thank Brother Aliakbar Shaheidari and Sisters Sabika Mithani, Liliana Villalvazo, Zahra Sabur, Noor Kraus, Fatima Hussain, Sumaiya Mithani, Fizza Moalem, Sajeda Merchant, Shahista Asgaraly, Sarah Assaf, Fatemeh Eslami, Israa Safieddine, Abeda Khimji, Zehra Abbas, Elham Shaheidari, and Rumina Hashmani. We would especially like to thank Nashr Kumeh Publications for their artwork and contributions.

May Allah (swt) bless them in this world and the next.

Marḥūmīn Dedication

For our daughter Shireen Ahsan, who loved the Ahl al-Bayt, and was loved by all around her,
please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah.

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of *The Guiding Light* series is to help children learn that Islam is a holistic religion that shows the best way to lead our lives in all different areas!

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think 'outside of the box' by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum, and begin their life-long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of *Darse Khārij* from the *Ḥawzah* (the Highest Level of Islamic Studies in the Seminary), Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, having grown up in India, and now residing in the United States, he has had the honor of traveling to various communities and meeting many community leaders. He values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials, and to create open source platforms so that information and resources are available and accessible to everyone around the world.

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You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family.
Share the word, and join the mission.

6 Knowledge in Islam

A Collection of Qur'ānic Verses and Sayings from the 14 Ma'sūmīn

According to aḥādīth, human beings are in a state of loss, unless they are in one of the following states: (1) learning and understanding, (2) teaching, (3) practicing what they have learned, or (4) preparing to learn or practice. Therefore, it is important for us to constantly seek and attain further knowledge, which includes more than just the systemic school education. Parents should ensure their children are educated holistically and learn all they need to live a successful life both in this world and the next.

LESSON
I

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING

يَرْفَعِ اللّٰهُ الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَ الَّذِيْنَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ

Allah will raise the status of those among you who have faith and have been given knowledge.

Sūrah al-Mujādilah, Verse 11

One day, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) entered the masjid and saw two groups of people. The first group was busy praying, while the second group was in the middle of a lively discussion about important issues.

The Prophet (ṣ) then said, "Allah is pleased with what both of these groups are doing, but I will join the second group because Allah sent me to teach people and help them understand things better."

When we learn more about who Allah is, our acts of worship usually become much more special. Our prayers are worth much more when we come to realize more about what is true in the world.

Anecdotes of Pious Men

إِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ لَتَضَعُ أَجْنِحَتَهَا لِطَالِبِ الْعِلْمِ

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Indeed, angels spread out their wings [out of respect] for the seekers of knowledge.

Biḥār al-Anwār, Vol. 1, P. 177

LESSON 2

The Importance of Taking Notes

وَ الْقَلَمِ وَ مَا يَسْطُرُونَ

By the pen and by what they write.

Sūrah al-Qalam, Verse 1

One day, Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) gathered a group of young people from his family and told them, "Today you are children, but tomorrow you will be leaders, so work hard to learn and understand. If you can't remember what your teacher says in class, take notes so that you can review them whenever you need to."

Biḥār al-Anwār, Vol.2, P.152

قَيِّدُوا الْعِلْمَ بِالْكِتَابَة

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Save knowledge through note-taking.

History of Shīʿah Ḥadīth, Vol. 1, P. 17

LESSON 3

The Importance of Thinking

أَفَلاَ تَتَفَكَّرُونَ

Will you not think?

Sūrah al-Anʿām, Verse 50

One day, Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) saw a man sitting by himself, deep in thought. So he sat beside him and asked, "What are you thinking about?"

The man said, "Allah says in the Qurʾān that smart people think about the wonders of the world, so I'm thinking about how Allah created everything so perfectly and beautifully!"

The Prophet (ṣ) then said, "*SubḥānAllāh*! Did you know that one hour of thinking is better than a whole year of worship?"

As human beings, we always need to make time to think about things in silence. There are so many important things to figure out in our heads. Our minds should be busy thinking about things like how we've spent our lives, how we plan to become better people, how Allah gave us so many blessings, how best to use our time, and so on.

100 Topics, 500 Stories

فَضْلُ فِكْرٍ وَ تَفَهُّمٍ أَنْجَعُ مِنْ فَضْلِ تَكْرَارٍ وَ دِرَاسَةٍ

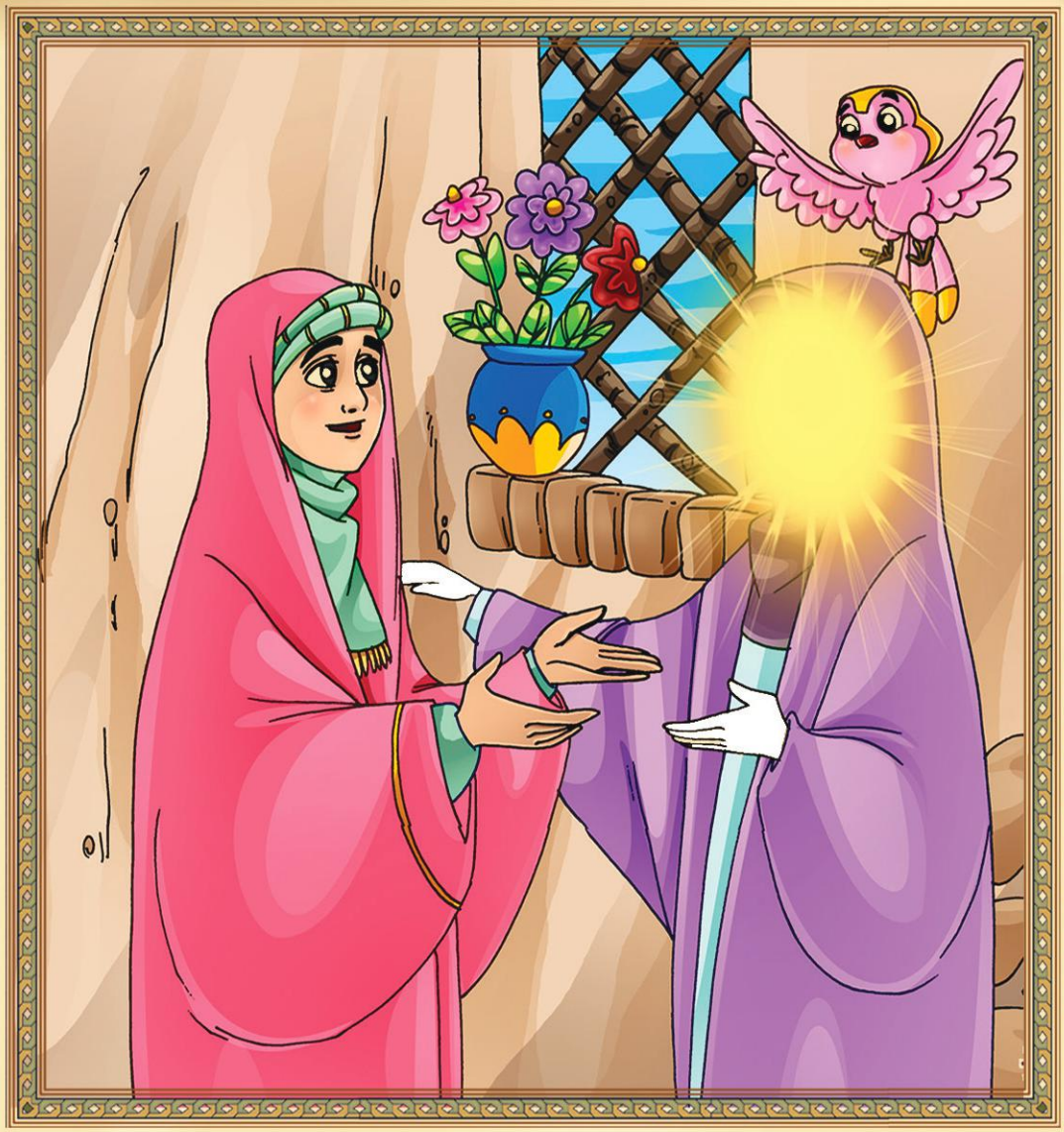
Imām ʿAlī (ʿa):

To think about something and try to understand it is more useful than to just read and memorize.

Ghurar al-Ḥikam wa Durrar al-Kalam, #6564

LESSON 4

The Importance of Asking Questions



فَاسْئَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

If you don't know something, ask those who [know] and always remember Allah.

Sūrah al-Anbiyāʾ, Verse 7

Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa) used to teach Qurʾān to the women of Medina. In one of these gatherings, there was a woman who kept asking a bunch of questions! Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa) made sure to answer all of them patiently and with a smile.

After the woman asked her tenth question, she felt embarrassed and said, "I bothered you with so many questions today!" and Sayyidah (ʿa) gently replied, "Ask as many questions as you would like and I will gladly reply. Allah gives thousands of rewards for every answer that I give."

Whenever you have a question, big or small, don't be shy to ask! Ask the right people — people who know more about the subject you're wondering about. You can also save your questions for later, when you meet with a teacher or scholar.

Biḥār al-Anwār, Vol. 2, P. 3

اَلسُّؤَالُ نِصْفُ الْعِلْمِ

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
A good question is half of knowledge.

Kanz al-ʿUmmāl, #29260

LESSON 5

The Importance of Praying for More Knowledge

وَ قُل رَّبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا

And say, “My Lord, give me more knowledge.”

Sūrah Tāha, Verse 114

Allah once asked Prophet Mūsā (ʿa), "Who is the most knowledgeable person?"

He replied, "I do not know anyone more knowledgeable than You, O Allah. And You have also given special knowledge to me."

Allah then told him, "Yes, O Mūsā, I am the Most Knowledgeable, and from My servants, al-Khiḍr (ʿa) is more knowledgeable than you."

After hearing this, Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) really wanted to meet al-Khiḍr (ʿa) and learn from him. So, he went in search of him.

When he found al-Khiḍr (ʿa), he thanked Allah for this blessing. For Prophet Mūsā (ʿa), it was a very special moment to finally meet him! He thought to himself, I will try to learn everything I can from al-Khiḍr.

At one point, they were walking together along the coast, when they saw a bird filling its beak with water from the ocean and pouring it onto the ground. Al-Khiḍr (ʿa) asked, "Do you know why this bird is doing this?"

Prophet Mūsā (ʿa) shook his head and listened carefully to what al-Khiḍr (ʿa) was about to say. "This is Allah's way of showing us that our knowledge compared to His knowledge is like a drop in the gigantic ocean."

Tafsīr Nūr, Vol. 7, P. 399

سَلُوا اللَّهَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):
Ask Allah for useful knowledge.

Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, #1743

Quiz Time!

1. When entering the masjid, the Prophet (ṣ) saw that one group of people was busy praying and the other was _____.
   a. reading Qurʾān
   b. having a feast
   c. in the middle of a beneficial discussion

2. Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) says that if you cannot remember what your teacher says in class, you should _____.
   a. repeat the idea in your head
   b. take notes
   c. ask a friend

3. According to the Prophet (ṣ), one hour of _____ is better than one year of worshiping.
   a. thinking
   b. reading Qurʾān
   c. playing

4. The Prophet (ṣ) tells us that asking useful questions is half of _____.
   a. heaven
   b. knowledge
   c. rewards

5. Who is the most knowledgeable?
   a. Al-Khiḍr (ʿa)
   b. Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)
   c. Allah

6. Name two things you learned from this book.

Email your answers to QUIZZES@KISAKIDS.ORG, and we will send you a certificate!

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All Glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Aḥādīth: Traditions from the Noble Prophet of Islam

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* that is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Allah: The Arabic term for God, a culmination of all His holy names and titles

Duʿāʾ: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

Imām Ḥasan (ʿa): The 2nd Imām (divine leader); his name means good-doer

Imām ʿAlī (ʿa): The 1st Imām (divine leader); his name means the exalted

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

Masjid: Mosque

Maʿṣūmīn: Infallibles

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): The last and final Messenger of God

Qurʾān: The Holy Book of Muslims

Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa): The daughter of the Noble Prophet, and most pious lady in Islam

SubḥānAllāh: All Glory and Praise belongs to God

Sūrah: A chapter of the Qurʿān

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

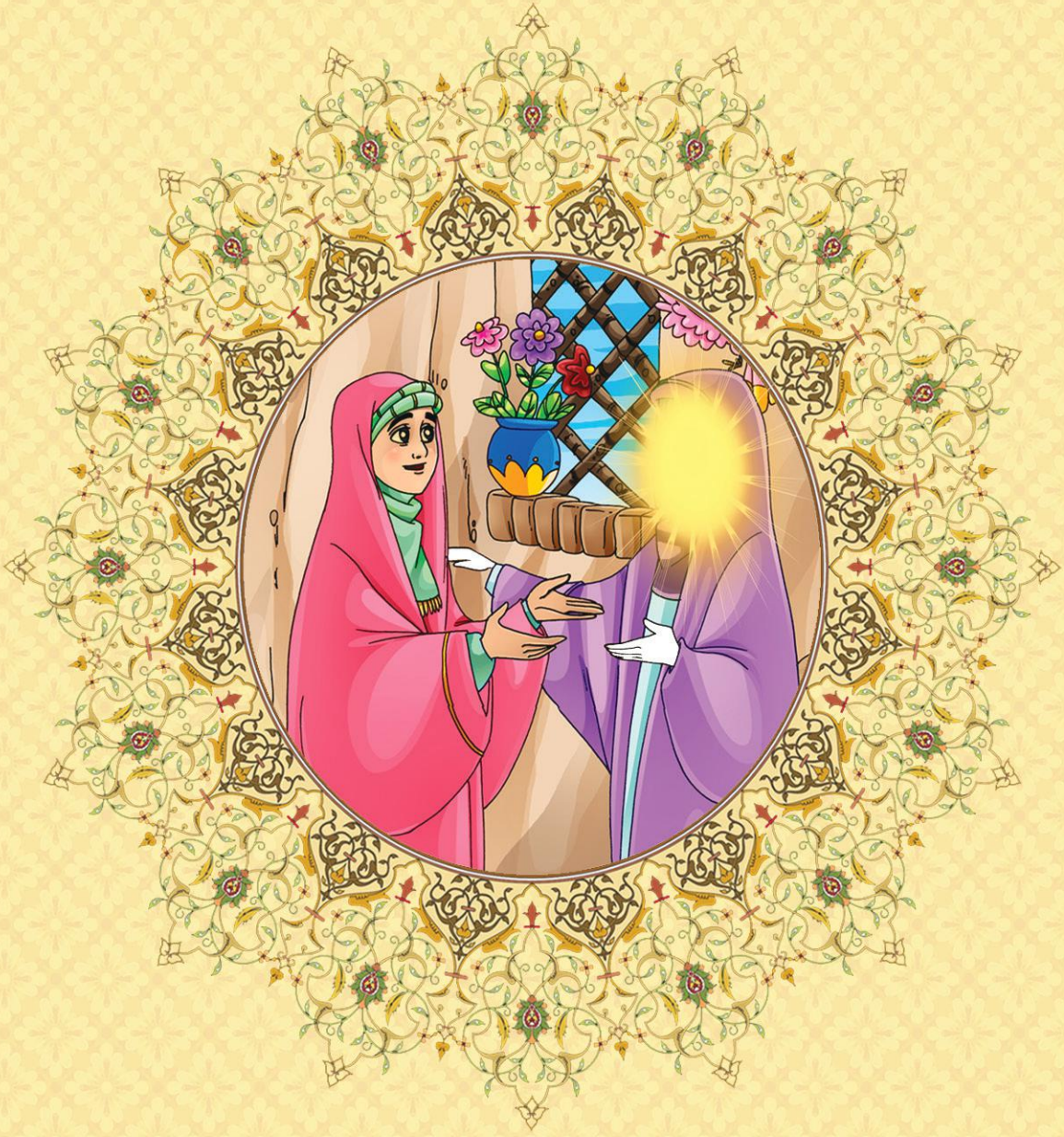
Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.



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